



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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President Bush Kicks Off Back-to-School Season

President George W. Bush today attended the first day of school at Griegos Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he stressed the importance of parental involvement in education and underscored the need to pass his *No Child Left Behind* education reform plan.

Conference committee members are currently negotiating differences between the House and Senate versions of the President Bush's education bill, both of which reflect the core principles of his education reform agenda -- accountability, flexibility and local control, funding for programs that work, and expanding parental options.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math scores released on August 2 -- which showed modest improvement nationally, but more dramatic successes in states with rigorous accountability systems -- provide a good road map as Congress continues its work.

As President Bush has insisted, the NAEP scores show that we must measure schools for progress improving student performance across racial and socio-economic groups; (2) ensure that states have testing systems in place that can really measure progress from year to year and district to district; and (3) prove an independent way to prove that state assessment and accountability systems are working. High standards and accountability will help all children succeed -- particularly those who for too long have been left behind.

Message of the Day

More unmistakably than ever, the Bush plan is the right agenda for America's most vulnerable children.

- ❑ *NAEP math results in Texas and North Carolina show that a system with high standards, testing, and accountability helps all children succeed.*
- ❑ *For nearly 40 years, the federal government has tried to improve education with money alone; but we've learned that money without reform and accountability is fruitless.*
- ❑ *But finally, a vision of dramatic education reform is on the verge of becoming a reality.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Students in Texas and North Carolina -- states on which the President's education reform agenda is based -- led the nation in mathematics achievement and improvement.
- In fourth-grade math, every racial/ethnic group in Texas performed better than their racial/ethnic peers in other states.
- Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia also closed the achievement gap in math between Anglo and African-American students.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We shouldn't fear accountability in America; we should welcome it. We're a results-oriented society."
President George W. Bush, Albuquerque, NM, August 15, 2001